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MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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District Council Offices  
Maple Creek,  
MASHAM.

H. DIGGLES  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

North Riding of Yorkshire

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman (Councillor E.S. Bulmer)  
The Vice-Chairman (Councillor J. Robinson)  
and all members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. H. Diggles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Area Health Office,  
The Wensleydale Secondary Modern School.  
LEYBURN, Yorks.  
Telephone: LEYBURN 2125

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor

A. Nunn, C.R.S.H.,  
Council Offices,  
MASHAM, RIPON, Yorks.  
Telephone: Masham 378



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Area Health Office,  
LEYBURN  
1970.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Owing to the retirement of Dr. H. Diggles on medical grounds, I have the honour of submitting the Annual report on the Health of the District for 1969. The report follows the lines of previous reports. The state of public health is satisfactory. The Birth rate is 17.00 per 1000 population, adjusted by the comparability factor, was slightly higher than that for England and Wales as a whole (16.3). The General death rate (adjusted) was lower (9.9) than that for England and Wales (11.9). There were no Infant or Maternal Deaths, and one stillbirth.

The water supply authority for the district is the Northallerton and the Dales Water Board and I am indebted to their Engineer for the following report:- The Board's main efforts continue to be directed towards locating and developing suitable new sources of supply. This is necessary to make up for dry weather deficiencies, to meet the growing demand for water and to enable numerous small and isolated supplies to be replaced by more economic linked schemes.

Throughout the year, routine bacteriological samples were taken by the Board and examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) H.R. Morrison,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.



# SECTION A.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

### (A) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	25995
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1969)	1700
Population (1931 Census)	2024
Population (1951 Census)	1738
Number of Inhabited houses 1969	608
Rateable Value (as at 1st April 1969)	£71493
Product of a penny rate (1st April 1969)	£285.60

### (B) VITAL STATISTICS (As supplied by Registrar General)

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
LIVE BIRTHS	11	10	1	10	10	-
STILL BIRTHS	-	-	-	1	1	-
INFANT DEATHS						
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 4 weeks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 week	-	-	-	-	-	-







## CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	3	4	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	2	4	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
All other Accidents	-	1	1
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	9	12	21
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## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.

### SECTION B.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

##### Laboratory Facilities

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

##### Ambulance Facilities

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Thirsk.

##### Hospital Services

Local Hospital accommodation is provided by the Northallerton Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at hospitals under the control of the Ripon and Harrogate Management Committee of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board



### Nursing in the Home

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery services are under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee through the District Medical Officer. One district nurse/midwife operates in the area.

### Domestic Health Service

This service is under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee.

## SECTION C.

### Water Supplies

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's section

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's section

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's section

## SECTION D.

### Housing

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's section

## SECTION E.

### Meat and Other Foods

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's section

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Infectious Diseases Notified,</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	31	27	58







## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting my report on the seventh year of my service as your Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

After the more obvious work of last year on the layout plan for Maple Creek Flats the consideration of the finer points of specification and details of the various installations seemed less spectacular but was equally time consuming. The final approval by the (then) Ministry of Housing and Local Government was received and tenders for construction were due for receipt immediately after the year end. Continual discussion in the Council meetings aroused great public interest in the scheme and to ensure that public opinion was, at least, well informed, a duplicated brochure in question and answer form was produced and aroused much comment.

No new construction was embarked upon during the year, but a number of renewals and improvements were carried out at sewage works.

During the year it was found that water from a spring in the town was being used for drinking purposes. On testing it was found to be dangerous and the decision was made to divert the spring direct into the drain which carried the overflow to the river. Despite the absence of any dramatic outbreak of disease it may well be that a number of minor upsets were prevented. As a result two of the local sports establishments provided themselves with a connection to the town's water supply.

It was also decided that, in view of approaching decimalisation of the currency, the cost of renewing coin locks on public conveniences was not worthwhile as income never related to expenditure - and never could while the 'custom' of holding the door ajar for the next member of the party is followed. Accordingly, the Council decided to provide not only a free service, but a free conscience to the 'Penny savers'.

I must put on record, once more, my thanks to the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and his staff, for the assistance given to me in the carrying out of my duties. Your workmen - both full and part time - continued to work in a very satisfactory manner.

I have, Gentlemen, the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR NUNN

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.





## WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water is, principally, supplied by the Northallerton and The Dales Water Board, though both the Leeds Corporation and the Claro Water Board supply premises close to their reservoirs. All remaining houses are provided with water inside the dwelling from private supplies.

### Details of Water Supply

The quantity of water has been sufficient at all times.

### Quality of Water

During the year 81 samples of water were taken by the Board. 69 were satisfactory and of the remaining 12, 8 contained Bact. Coli Type 1, of which six samples were from the same supply. This supply had a drip-feed chlorinator installed last year, but the water is collected from upland springs and is liable to contamination during rainy periods.

A sample taken from a spring in Masham was reported as containing 90 Bact Coli Type 1 per 100 ml. It was found that this was being used for human consumption and arrangements were made to prevent this use.

### Distribution of Water

The table below gives the number of occupied houses in the district, divided by Parish, and the means of water supply:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Northallerton &amp; The Dales W.B.</u>	<u>Leeds Corp.<sup>n</sup> Claro W.B.</u>	<u>Private</u>
Burton-on-Yore	26	-	9
Colsterdale	-	-	3
Ellingstring	24	-	-
Ellingtons	21	-	1
Fearby	51	-	2
Healey	22	5	17
Ilton-cum-Pott	9	2	11
Swinton with Warthermarske	22	-	16
Masham	<u>366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>541</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>60</u>

There are 17 unoccupied dwellings in the district, of which 8 are likely to be reoccupied as dwellings.

### Inspections:

21 premises were visited in connection with water supplies, the attention of the Water Board's local officer being called to cases needing his attention.





## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

### Sewers

Sewers and sewage works exist at Masham, Fearby and Ellingstring. The remaining areas (except Swinton - where a system owned by the Estate exists) are not capable of being sewered at reasonable expense.

### Sewage Works

Masham: Of 7 samples of the effluent from this plant taken during the year four were satisfactory so far as solids were concerned and two were within the B.O.D. standard. Among the effluents received is one with a B.O.D. of 1740. This is estimated at 1500 gallons (about 1/25 of daily flow) three times weekly.

Fearby: This plant still works very satisfactorily.

Ellingstring: The effects of a change in stock occupancy of the field in which these works are situated began to show an effect on lines of land tiles situated near to the surface.

Sewers: Two major stoppages occurred during the year, one caused by a large stone which had gained access - probably through a manhole which had been opened, the other by the escape of a large quantity of barley which had escaped from a local industry due to the omission of a screen. Both were quickly found and action taken to resume the flow to the works.

## LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses or Houses in Multiple Occupation in the district.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service continues, by contract, as in previous years, a most efficient and courteous team of workmen being provided by the contractor.

Refuse continues to be tipped at Healey quarry where, because of its remoteness, the refuse can be burned without nuisance. This assists in keeping down fly and rat breeding. The tip is regularly inspected and has a complete rat treatment at least twice a year - more often if necessary. Warfarin is still effective and because there is a shortage of food, baits are quickly found and readily taken.





## HOUSING

The general standard of housing in the district remains satisfactory, and the flow of applications for improvement grants is increasing. By the end of the year the changes in the grant system under the 1969 Act were starting to appear.

Private building continues steadily on two small private estates, the new occupants being drawn partly from local residents and partly from newcomers to the district.

The layout plan for the Maple Creek Flats had the detailed flat layout added and after consultations with Fire and Welfare authorities was eventually submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and their approval received. A short list of interested contractors was selected from amongst those who had expressed interest and tender documents were despatched for return just after the end of the year. Meanwhile discussions were taking place on the details of various installations to be included in the scheme.

### Statistics in connection with Housing:

No. of occupied houses in the district	608
No. of new dwellings completed	10
No. of full inspections made	7
No. of houses inspected for defects	14
No. of houses closed	-
No. of houses demolished	-

### Improvement Grants:

No. of visits of inspection and interviews	54
No. of Grant applications: Standard	9
Discretionary	4
No. of houses improved with Grant Aid:	
Standard	5
Discretionary	4

The year showed a sharp upturn in the number of grant applications received. In the past much of the improvement work has been to premises owned by the Swinton Estate but to a greater extent private individuals are now coming forward with schemes.

### Council Housing:

There has been no increase in the number of houses built by the Council but one house was acquired near the access to Maple Creek scheme to allow improvement of the access. As it was only part of the front garden which was needed, the house became available for letting. Houses and bungalows now owned by the Council are:

- 4 - Four bedroom houses
- 59 - Three bedroom houses
- 18 - Two Bedroom bungalows
- 3 - One Bedroom bungalows.





Houses are visited weekly in connection with rent collection and in addition 43 visits were made in connection with repairs. One of the 28 houses on the Leyburn Road Estate was used as a trial for a scheme to prevent condensation in the wash-houses, this scheme consisted of an internal lining of purlboard together with external covering of the concrete flat roof with felt and renewal of the wall rendering. It is the intention, if this treatment is successful, to deal similarly with others which are affected.

### BUILDING REGULATIONS

No. of Plans submitted to and approved by Council	25
No. of visits to work in progress	69

### FOOD AND DRUGS

A total of 450 animals were slaughtered for human food at the one slaughterhouse in the district. A total of 60 visits was necessary to maintain 100% inspection.

#### Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis

No cases of either of these conditions were found during the year.

#### Meat and Food Condemned

The following amounts of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:

At Slaughterhouse	1½ pig carcasses	157 lbs
Canned Meats		3 "
Canned Fruit etc.		8 "
Canned Vegetables		6
Canned Milk	equivalent of	6 pts.

#### Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

Dealt with by North Riding County Council.

#### Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no processing plants in the district.

#### Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments in the district, supplies being brought in from neighbouring districts.

#### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations

There is only one producer in the district, from whom samples are taken by North Riding County Council staff.





## Food Hygiene Regulations:

The following establishments exist in the district:

Butchers	2
Grocers	2
General Dealers (food)	6

A total of 90 visits were paid to food premises. No major contraventions were found.

## RODENT AND INSECT INFESTATIONS.

Only isolated instances of rat infestation occurred during the year, these being dealt with free of charge in domestic premises and assistance and advice given in other cases. Whenever premises are visited for any purpose a watch is kept for signs of rodent infestation.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Both caravan sites in the area (each occupied by one van) ceased to be used during the year.

## CLEAN AIR ACT

Four industrial furnaces now exist in the district, but at no time has any smoke emission been observed or complained of. Complaint was received of a noxious emission from one chimney, the plant was visited and remedial measures were in progress by the end of the year.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

There are 18 premises currently on the register, at which 83 persons are employed. 84 visits were made to these premises during the year.

No accident reports were received during the year, but one was received relating to 1969 at a later date. The lesson learned from this accident was that, when cleaning an electric meat slicing machine, it is not sufficient to rely on switching the machine off, but it is also good practice to withdraw the plug from the electric supply socket.

## FACTORIES.

Overleaf are the relevant sections of the tables required to be provided to the Department of Employment and Productivity under Section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961.





# 1. Inspections

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>No of</u> <u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted</u>
(ii) Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	15	25	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced	3	93	-	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found:

No cases were found which required to be referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories and no references were received from him.

### Outworkers:

No notifications of outworkers were received and none are known in the district.

### OTHER VISITS

In addition to the activities reported above the following visits were made in connection with other matters of concern to the Council:

Interviews	223 (Greatly increased due to Maple Creek Flats scheme)
Hairdressers	5
Petroleum Regulations	2
Planning Acts	9
Council Property	10
Parks and Gardens	16

